

Syllabus

Foundations for Algebra

Instructor: Mrs. Block & Mr. Petersen

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Resource: Eureka 8th Grade Math

<http://greatminds.net/maps/math/grade-8>

<http://mtsd-st8.wikispaces.com/Foundations+8th+Grade+Math+Standards#>

Expectations

You are expected to be an active participant in the classroom and to be in your seat before the bell rings. Come to class with your PREP work, pencil, binder with paper, and calculator.

Composition of Grade

PREP work: MUST be completed daily. It is your responsibility to check your work. Answers will be posted on board, smart board or will be on your table as you walk in. You will get a daily homework grade. 0 = no homework, few problems attempted, no work shown 1= majority of work is complete with work shown, but missing a few problems 2= all work completed with work shown

If you don't understand a homework problem:

First read through your notes from the previous day(s) to find a problem similar to the one you are having difficulties with. Next, if you are still confused, go to the website on the wiki and watch a video on the topic. If you are still confused ask for help during AA, lunch or email me and see if I am available in the morning to help you. Finally, if you are still finding difficulties ask for help during class. You are responsible for knowing all problems; not just the process, but the concepts. (10%)

Quizzes/ In-class Activities Quizzes will be short assessments on a few concepts. Quizzes are checkpoints to gauge where you are at with concepts. In order to prepare for these assessments, you must have not only completed the homework, but understood all problems. In-class activities help enhance student understanding of Foundations for Algebra. At times they will consist of group work, or note/binder checks. These checks are to ensure that the student is not only actively participating in class notes, but to make sure the organization of such participation is apparent. These are graded upon completion, correctness and active participation. (40%)

Tests: Tests assess the concepts learned in each unit. The best preparations for these tests are homework completion and daily review of notes and activities in your binder. However, some students may still have difficulty on the assessments even though they have completed

the homework assignments. In those circumstances I would strongly advise those students to stop in for extra help on a regular basis. (50%)

Test/Quiz Corrections: Students will be allowed to make test/quiz corrections **if and only if** he or she has completed all homework assignments for the unit on time with the appropriate work shown. All homework assignments will be checked daily. I will examine the homework to ensure that work is shown and answers were checked. After the test has been corrected, students will have up to 2 days to make corrections on the test. Students will receive half credit back for corrections that are accurate and show evidence of their understanding.

Absence Protocol

When absent, you are responsible for all missing work and notes. Do not ask for make up work during class. Come in early or during AA or recess to get missing work if it is not on the wiki. You may come in for help after you have taken the notes, viewed videos and attempted the problems.

If an in-class assignment was completed while you were absent:

It is due two days after the absence. Late in-class work will not be accepted. You will need to schedule a time to see me within those two days if you do not understand the in-class task. NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you are absent the day of the test:

You will need to make up the test within two days of the absence either before school/after school or AA! Email to set up a time. Tests will generally take 45 minutes to complete and quizzes 20-30 minutes.

Teacher and Classroom Expectations

Teacher Expectations: You can expect us to use a variety of different methods and strategies for teaching. I will give you respect and trust and will expect the same in return. I am available for additional help and open to any questions you may have.

Classroom Expectations:

Each student will acknowledge, understand, and comply with this set of guidelines in order to maintain a level of success in the classroom:

1. Each student must have a high level of respect for his or her peers, fellow students, and teachers (faculty).
 1. Anything that is harmful, disrespectful, or disrupts the learning environment will not be tolerated.

2. Each student must come prepared to class by bringing a binder with paper, a pencil for the daily activities, a calculator, and any assignments that are due for that day.
3. Each student will come to class on time and be seated before the bell rings.
4. Only appropriate language will be allowed in the classroom.
5. When answering a question, please raise your hand and wait to be called on.
6. Bathroom passes will be issued at the teachers' discretion.
7. Students will be asked to work in groups with his or her peers. You will be expected to behave in a respectable way during these times and must be working on the given tasks. Appropriate consequences will follow if this does not happen.

DISCIPLINE

1. Verbal Warning – You get 1.
2. Phone call/email home and removal from class.
3. Referral to the office and phone call home.

If behavior does not improve after steps 1 and 2, we will move directly from step 1 to 3 for repeat behavior.

Foundations for Algebra Key Concepts

Irrational and Rational Numbers

Squaring, cubing integers, square roots and cube roots

Exponents

Scientific Notation (Adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing)

Transformations and multistep transformations (rotation, translation, reflection, dilations)

Similar shapes and proportions

Algebra (multistep equations with fractions, distributive property, algebraic word problems, combining like terms)

Algebraic proportions

Functions

Linear Equations (slope, graphing, tables, substitution, elimination)

Pythagorean Theorem and Distance Formula